



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/817,574

04/02/2004

Daryl Hamilton

08049.0929

3806

7590 08/31/2009
Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner, LLP
1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER

AMSDELL, DANA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/31/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

1. Amendments to claims 6, 12, and 18, and the addition of new claims 19 and 20 is acknowledged. Claims 1-20 are examined within on the merits.

Response to Remarks

2. *Claim Rejections -35 USC §103*

With respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-18 under 35 USC §103, Applicant's arguments (see REMARKS filed 5/6/2009) reciting:

Applicant respectfully submits that the information provided on Sansone's label 29 and tag 32 fails to correspond to an enhanced label as recited in independent claims 1, 7 and 13. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's assertion indicates an apparent misinterpretation of Sansone and/or the claims of the present application. The notion that label 29 or tag 32 discloses an enhanced label is inaccurate because none of the information provided on label 29 or tag 32 corresponds to a label unique identifier, which is included in the enhanced label of claims 1, 7, and 13.

Instead, as described above, Sansone's label 29 and tag 32 recite different types of information, none of which result in at least a unique label identifier. Those types of information are representative of typical characteristics--destination, origination, physical properties, the mailer, and the like--of the tray, none of which serve to uniquely distinguish the tray, hence the label, from other trays and labels. Applicant respectfully submits that the information displayed on either of label 29 or tag 32 is the type of information that can be found on any other tray matching those characteristics. For instance, multiple trays in the same container may share all of the characteristics identified in label 29 or tag 32.

have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Specifically, Applicant argues that Examiner has misinterpreted Sansone and/or the claims of the present invention.

Art Unit: 3627

However, Examiner respectfully asserts that this is not the case. Rather than a *misinterpretation*, Examiner's assertions reflect the requisite *broad interpretation* for determining patentability. Regarding Applicant's submission that the type of information is not *globally* unique, Examiner asserts that the claim fails to recite this limitation. Sansone teaches the one time printing of a label and/or tag "for a particular run of mail" and the information pertaining to this "particular" run is encoded as an alphanumeric bar code (column 4, lines 40-45). Broadly interpreted, this teaches the recited claim element "label unique identifier"

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 -20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radican (US 6148291), here-in-after "Radican", in view of Sansone (US 5216620), here-in-after "Sansone".

5. Regarding claims 1,7 and 13 being to a method, system and computer readable medium (column 4, lines 37-43), directed to tracking a tray of items, Radican teaches the receipt of a load container scan, the load container scan associating the container

Art Unit: 3627

unique identifier with 'hard copy reports' (Fig. 3 - 'Status', and column 7, lines 42-44).

Radican also discloses load content and status 'labels' with the monitoring system (column 13, lines 18-30), without actually specifying affixed labels; and he does disclose an embodiment utilizing "enhanced" label technology for tray application.

Sansone, however, does teach directly to a generated enhanced label (Fig. 1, elm. 22), the enhanced label comprising a routing code, the enhanced label being applied to the tray; associating a tray with a container, the container having a container unique identifier (Fig. 2b, column 1, lines 37-59; and column 4, lines 30-40). One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would find it obvious to modify the teachings of Radican by Sansone's disclosure of mail transit logistics (enabled by an enhanced label/tray system and method), as they overlap in providing a technology retro-fitted solution to problematic logistics; and as to achieve the highly desirable outcome of "the amount of effort can be reduced"; (see Sansone- Background).

4. Regarding claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14 and 15, Radican and Sansone, teach the claim dependencies, and Radican further teaches receiving a load vehicle scan, the load vehicle scan associating the container unique identifier with a vehicle identifier and a load and unload time (Fig. I, elm. V, Fig. 3- association between 'Status' and 'Time', and column 8, lines 45-55).

5. Regarding claims 4, 10, and 16, Radican and Sansone, teach the claim dependencies, and Radican further teaches receiving an unload container scan, the

Art Unit: 3627

unload container scan associating the container unique identifier with an unload container time (Fig. 1, elm. C; and column 4, lines 60-67).

6. Regarding claims 5, 11, 17, 19 and 20, Radican and Sansone, teach the claim dependencies, and Sansone further teaches wherein the label unique identifier comprises at least one of a machine identifier, a label source, a holdout identifier, a serial number, and a label type (Fig 2b and column 4, lines 30-42 (label type being alpha-numeric barcode)); wherein the label type comprises a constant field (Fig. 2B, elm. 57-contract ID), a key field (Fig. 2B, elm. 52 –Zip code as defined by Applicant's Specifications as a "key" field) and a variable field (Fig. 2B, elm. 66 – weight).

7. Regarding claim 6, 12 and 18, Radican and Sansone, teach the claim dependencies, and Sansone further teaches wherein the routing code comprises at least one of a destination code, a content identifier number, a DOD code, and an MPC code (Fig. 2a - first 5 numbers of barcode being the destination code represented by the ZIP code).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

Art Unit: 3627

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANA AMSDELL whose telephone number is (571)270-5210. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4/9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Florian Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/F. Ryan Zeender/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627